

MAYIM

Israeli

PRONUNCIATION: MAH-yeem

TRANSLATION: Water

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from folk dance groups around the Los Angeles, California, area. Dvora Lapson presented the dance at the 1951 University of the Pacific (now Stockton) Folk Dance Camp and published piano music for the dance in her book, *Dances of the Jewish People*.

BACKGROUND: Mayim is said to have originated on a kibbutz (a communal settlement in Israel, typically a farm) on the shores of Galilee and has since spread to all parts of Israel. The movements in the dance express the joy of finding water in arid land and emulate the motion of waves as they break upon the shore. The choreographer is Dov Seltzer, the lyrics are by Isaiah, the music is by E. Amiran.

MUSIC: Folkraft (45rpm) 1108-A
Folkraft (45rpm) 1475
Elektra (LP) EKS-7186
Israel Music Foundation (LP) LP 5/6
Tikva (LP) 106
Folkraft (LP) 12;
World of Fun (LP) MH 119
Israel Music Foundation (45rpm) 114

FORMATION: Cir of mixed M and W with hands joined and held down in "V" pos.

METER/RHYTHM: 4/4

STEPS/STYLE: Style is happy and lively, as would be expected upon finding water in the desert.

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

Varies from recording to recording. No action.

I. GRAPEVINE

This step is also referred to as the "Mayim Step" or "Tscherkessia Step" in some Israeli dance notations.

1 Moving CW around the cir, step R across in frnt of L (ct 1); step L swd (ct 2); step R across in back of L (ct 3); low leap L swd, accenting the step (ct 4);

2-4 Repeat action of the meas 1 three more times.

II. CENTER AND BACK

1 Low leap R twd ctr, bending knee slightly (ct 1); run L twd ctr, beg to raise nearly straight arms fwd and up (ct 2); run R twd ctr, continuing to raise arms upward (ct 3); run fwd twd ctr, ending with hands raised high overhead (ct 4);

NOTE: In many areas of the United States, dancers clap hands on ct & at the end of the first meas.

2 Run bwd 4 steps, gradually lowering hands to orig formation pos.
3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2.

III. INTERLUDE

1 Beg R, move CW in RLOD with 4 running steps.

IV. TOE TOUCH, CLAP

1 Facing ctr, leap onto R, touching L across in front with straight leg (ct 1); hop R, touching L diag fwd to L with straight leg (ct 2); hop R, touching L across in front of L with straight leg (ct 3); hop R, touching R diag to L with straight leg (ct 4);
2 Repeat action of meas 1;
3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2, clapping hands in front with straight arms on uneven cts and swinging arms out to sides at shldr height on even cts.

Repeat entire dance from beg.

MAYIM Israel

/ Ushavtem mayim besason
Mimayaney hayeshu'a. /

Ladle water with happiness
From the wells of salvation.

/ Mayim, mayim, mayim, mayim, hey mayim besason. /

Water with glee!

Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey!

Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey!

/ Mayim, mayim, mayim, mayim, mayim besason. /

Water with glee.